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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(May 22 - June 21, 1981)

July 1981

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Gerald Cady

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 May - 21 June 1981)*

AFRICA GENERAL

Facts About Africa

(Excerpts) Africa is the second largest landmass after Eurasia. It has a population of nearly 470 million people. At the beginning of the century there were only two free states--Liberia and Ethiopia--but by 1956, with the colonial chain disintegrating, there were seven independent nations. Today that number has risen to fifty. The population of the majority of African countries is small with 30 of the 50 states having populations of less than five million people. Nigeria is the most populous nation on the continent with more than 80 million inhabitants. The Soviet Union renders much assistance to the countries of Africa, especially in the area of strengthening their national economies. The USSR also has signed nearly 600 agreements with African countries, many of which deal with establishing productive industries. For example, the Soviet Union has set up metallurgical factories in Nigeria, bauxite mines in Guinea, and ore-extraction facilities in Mozambique, Angola, and Ethiopia. (25 May 81, p. 6)

Organization of African Unity

[In an article reviewing the Organization of African Unity (OAU) history and organization, A. Serbin, a Pravda correspondent in Africa, concludes that divisive international imperialist intrigues have made it difficult for the OAU to become an effective force for peace or cooperation. (25 May 81, p. 6)]

UN Support for People of Southern Africa

(Excerpt) The Committee on Colonialism of the United Nations called for an international conference to support the suppressed peoples of southern Africa who are struggling patriotically for their inalienable rights. (29 May 81, p. 1)

OAU Session Opens

(Text) The 37th session of the Organization of African Unity's Council of Ministers began in Nairobi, Kenya. (16 Jun 81, p. 1)

WEST AFRICA

ECOWAS Meeting

(Excerpt) The sixth conference of the heads of state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) got underway in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. (1 Jun 81, p. 5)

*Editions of 11 and 12 June not received but edition of 20 May omitted from previous month is included.

SOVIETS INTERESTS IN AFRICA

Message from Brezhnev to Conference Considering Sanctions Against South Africa

(Excerpt) The Soviet Union, as it was recently made clear at the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, continues to adhere to the course of supporting the national liberation movement, repulsing the aggressive intrigues of imperialism, and seeking the adoption of measures that will eradicate racism and apartheid. (20 May 81, p. 1)

African Liberation Day Reception

(Excerpt) In recognition of Africa Liberation Day the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a reception on 22 May for the heads of the diplomatic delegations of Africa accredited in the USSR. (23 May 81, p. 4)

Brezhnev's African Liberation Day Greetings

(Summary) President L. Brezhnev, on behalf of the Soviet Communist Party and Government, cordially congratulated the governments and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day. The Soviet Union, he declared, is the sincere and consistent friend of the African continent, and unswervingly supports the African people's struggle for their national liberation and economic independence. (25 May 81, p. 2, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #105, 2 Jun 81, pp. J1 & 2)

Africa Solidarity Week Proclaimed

(Excerpt) At the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress the USSR's sincere and continuing friendship with the states and peoples of Africa was reiterated. And as recently as 25 May this support was once again shown as representatives of Moscow's society celebrated the Day of Africa Liberation and officially began the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa. (26 May 81, p. 5)

Seminar on Cooperatives

(Summary) An international seminar for leaders of cooperative movements of the liberated countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America was held in Moscow. The participants familiarized themselves with the Soviet experience in the formation and development of the consumer cooperative system. (12 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #116, 17 Jun 81, p. CC3)

UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN AFRICA

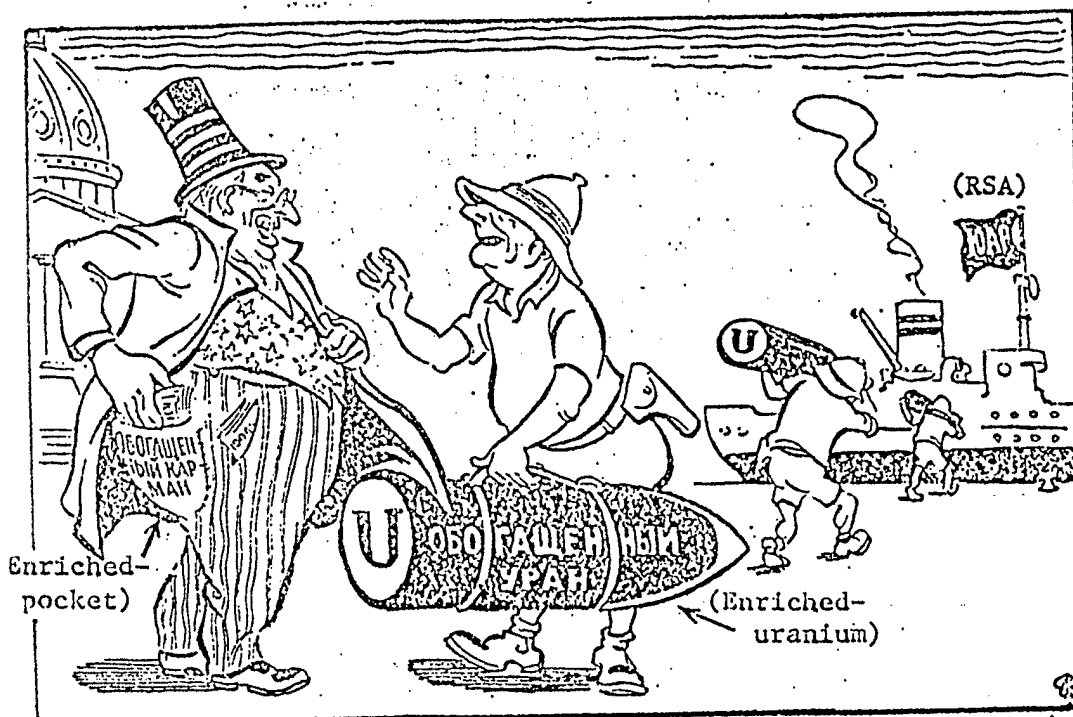
Lifting of Clark Amendment

(Excerpt) The Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the Congress of the United States has agreed to the Reagan Administration's proposal to eliminate the prohibition against the employment of American subversive actions in Angola. (23 May 81, p. 5)

US - South African Nuclear Cooperation

США и ЮАР ведут закулисные переговоры о поставках Претории обогащенного ядерного топлива. (Из газет).

(The United States and the Republic of South Africa have been holding secret negotiations involving the supplying of enriched nuclear fuel to Pretoria.)



Из-под полы... (Covertly....)

Рис. В. Фомичева.

(30 May 81, p. 5)

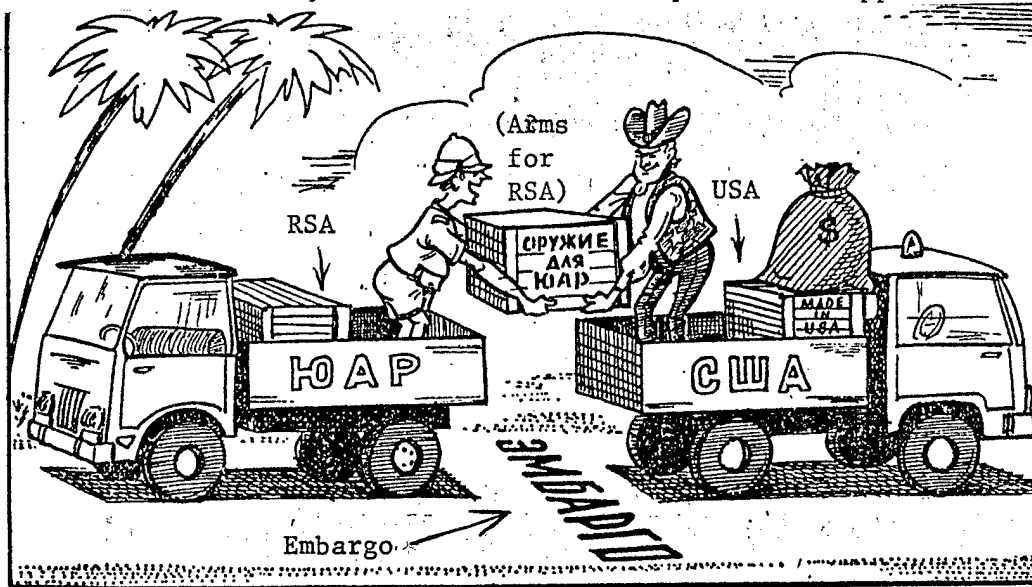
Siad Barre in Washington

(Excerpt) Somali President Siad Barre, who is visiting Washington, has had a meeting with US Defense Secretary C. Weinberger. According to a Pentagon spokesman, among the questions discussed was American strategy in the Indian Ocean, especially the creation of bridgeheads on Somali territory for the deployment of the gendarme Rapid Deployment Force. (31 May 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #108, 5 Jun 81, p. A5)

American Arms for South Asia

Пытались не допустить краха режима апартеида в Африке, США продолжают оказывать расистам ЮАР тайную военную и экономическую помощь и политическую поддержку. (Из газет).

(Attempting not to admit the bankruptcy of the apartheid regime in Africa, the United States continues to secretly supply the racists in the Republic of South Africa with military and economic aid and political support.)



— Как видите, мы не переступаем черту.

Рис. Г. Штаубера

(As you can see, we don't cross over the line.)

(5 Jun 81, p. 5)

New Imperialist Approach to Namibian Question

(Excerpts) The Namibian question has received renewed attention in the politico-military circles of the West, especially at the May meeting of NATO officials in Rome. The problem of Namibia was recently highlighted in American newspapers after a visit to the Republic of South Africa by an official from the State Department. The latest approach by the Reagan Administration, like all the other initiatives of the "Contact Group," has a neocolonialist character: it seeks to exclude the United Nations from the arbitration process and, with the epitome of great power insolence, to remove the condition calling for the removal of South African troops from the territory of Namibia. (6 Jun 81, p. 5)

Clark's Visit to South Africa

(Summary) United States Deputy Secretary of State Clark is in the Republic of South Africa on an official visit. He has been received by South African leaders including Prime Minister Botha. Though in the past the US has tried to

hide its military, political, and economic cooperation with this state that practices the worst form of racial discrimination--apartheid--Washington is now openly embracing the African racists. In support of this policy, Clark's discussions with the racist authorities in Pretoria centered on measures that would strengthen the friendship between the two countries. (16 Jun 81, p. 5)

ANGOLA

Party School Graduates

(Excerpt) The first group of party workers graduated from the 3-year school run by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)--Labor Party. (15 Jun 81, p. 1)

Soviet Delegation Departs

(Excerpt) A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by I. B. Usman-khodzhaetev, Deputy Chairman of that body's Presidium, departed Moscow on 15 June for Angola on an official visit. (16 Jun 81, p. 5)

Angolan Delegation in Moscow

(Excerpt) A delegation of functionaries of the MPLA-Labor Party has been in the Soviet Union from 6 through 16 June to learn about party organizing tactics. (18 Jun 81, p. 4)

CONGO

Scientific Cooperation

[Pravda ran a photograph depicting a Soviet scientific specialist supervising the work of a Congolese in a veterinarian laboratory located in Brazzaville. (25 May 81, p. 6)]

Material Surrounding Visit Published

(Excerpt) The material and documents relating to the People's Republic of the Congo President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's visit to the USSR from 12 through 17 May have been published in a single volume by Politizdat. (28 May 81, p. 4)

Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation

(Excerpt) P. Nze, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of the Politburo of the Congolese Worker's Party, stated in an interview that the treaty of friendship and cooperation crowned the warm relations that exist between his country and the Soviet Union. (4 Jun 81, p. 5)

Views of Life in the Congo

[Accompanying several photographs depicting students and workers in the Congo, the caption states: "Situated on the right bank of the Congo River--the longest on the continent--in Equatorial Africa is the People's Republic of the Congo. It is one of the youngest states in Africa, having won its independence from French colonial rule in 1960." (6 Jun 81, p. 4)]

Party Delegation in Moscow

(Summary) A delegation from the Congolese Labor Party headed by J. Lumabeka was in the Soviet Union from 28 May through 5 June and familiarized itself with the political and economic experience of the Soviet Union. (10 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #117, 18 Jun 81, p. J1)

Return of Soviet Delegation

(Excerpt) A Soviet Communist Party delegation headed by A. Kosarevim, Member of the Party's Control Committee, left Brazzaville and arrived today in Moscow. (14 Jun 81, p. 4)

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian-Somali Negotiations Denied

(Summary) The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry denied the Egyptian claim that an Ethiopian official held talks with Somali President Siad Barre in the Sudan. (29 May 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #107, 4 Jun 81, p. J2)

Humanitarian Assistance

(Summary) The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR have decided to render free aid to drought-stricken Ethiopia. (10 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #117, 18 Jun 81, p. J1)

Upcoming Elections

(Excerpt) Next Sunday voters in 315 cities and populated centers will select representatives to the Kebeles or urban associations. These associations were established in 1975 as a development of the Ethiopian revolution. Altogether there are 1,260 Kebeles in the country. (13 Jun 81, p. 4)

New Textbooks

(Excerpt) First-year students of the natural sciences faculty at the University of Addis Ababa will use textbooks prepared by faculty staff when the new school year begins. (14 Jun 81, p. 5)

GHANA

Tribal Disturbances

(Excerpt) Serious tribal clashes occurred in east Ghana in the area of Bimbila during the end of April that resulted in numerous deaths. (22 May 81, p. 4)

KENYA

Somali Aggression

(Excerpt) Somalia has continued to organize armed provocation against Kenya. Kenyan armed forces recently killed five Somali terrorists in the area around the city of Mandera in the northeastern part of the country. (20 May 81, p. 1)

Zone of Peace

(Excerpt) At the close of President of India N. S. Reddi's official visit to Kenya, both nations pledged their support for the concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. (5 Jun 81, p. 1)

MOZAMBIQUE

Talks in Moscow

(Summary) On 21 May, I. Arkhipov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met with M. da Graca Machungo, Mozambique's Minister of Planning and Agriculture. (22 May 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #108, 5 Jun 81, p. J2)

Cultural Delegation in Moscow

(Summary) On 8 June, P. N. Demichev, Candidate Member of the Soviet Politburo and USSR Culture Minister, received a delegation from Mozambique led by G. Machel, Minister of Education and Culture. (9 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #114, 15 Jun 81, p. J2)

TV Courses Begin

(Excerpt) Educational courses designed to train television employees started in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. (10 Jun 81, p. 1)

NAMIBIA

Resettlement Campaign

(Excerpt) The South African authorities, illegally occupying the territory of Namibia, have instituted a policy, employing violent means, of resettling the

inhabitants of the northern areas to inland areas away from the Angolan border. (24 May 81, p. 5)

Nujoma's Comments on World War II

(Excerpt) On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the start of the Soviet Union's Great Fatherland War against fascist Germany, it was stated by Sam Nujoma, President of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), that the Soviet Union and its glorious army made the decisive contribution to the defeat of Hitler's fascism. (6 Jun 81, p. 4)

UN Condemnation of West

(Summary) The United Nations Council on the Status of Namibia, meeting in Panama, unanimously condemned the undermining policy of the Western powers that supported the designs of the apartheid regime in the Republic of South Africa. (7 Jun 81, p. 5)

NIGERIA

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation

(Excerpt) A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P. Ya. Strautmanis, Deputy Chairman of that body's Presidium, left Moscow on 26 May for Nigeria on an official visit. (27 May 81, p. 5)

Development of Agriculture

(Summary) Nigeria intends to give greater emphasis to the agricultural sector in its fourth 5-year plan for national development. (5 Jun 81, p. 1)

Soviet Delegation Returns

(Excerpt) On 4 June the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P. Strautmanis, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of that body, returned to Moscow from Nigeria. (5 Jun 81, p. 4)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Auto Industry Strike

(Text) Approximately 3,400 workers at three automobile assembly factories have gone on strike in the Cape Province for higher wages. (20 May 81, p. 1)

Role in NATO for South Africa

(Summary) A concept now being given careful consideration in the West is the establishment of a military alliance between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Republic of South Africa. (24 May 81, p. 5)

Auto Industry Strikes Spread

(Excerpt) The labor dispute at automobile assembly factories in South Africa, owned by American and British interests, has spread to other industrial sectors such as the factories owned by Firestone Limited. (24 May 81, p. 5)

Sanctions Conference

(Excerpt) Talks are continuing at the UNESCO building in Paris by the participants of the United Nations (UN) Conference considering sanctions against the racist Republic of South Africa (RSA). The participants are demanding the end of apartheid in that country, the adoption of the UN's charter of human rights, and withdrawal from the territory of Namibia. The delegates from the Socialist nations have joined with the representatives of the African countries in demanding that sanctions be applied against the RSA until it halts its illegal behavior. (26 May 81, p. 5)

Student Protests

(Excerpt) The police arrested nearly 30 students at a school in Johannesburg who were attending a meeting that was called to protest the 20 years of educational discrimination on the basis of race. (29 May 81, p. 1)

20th Anniversary of Apartheid

(Excerpt) Against a backdrop of increasing popular protest against apartheid and racist suppression, the authorities in the Republic of South Africa have begun to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the apartheid form of republican government. (30 May 81, p. 5)

Citadel of Racism

(Summary) The Republic of South Africa, the last bulwark of racism on the continent, has again undertaken a policy of repression against its native peoples. In the face of labor disturbances throughout the country by blacks in the auto industry opposed to racial discrimination, the authorities reacted sharply with heavyhanded police tactics and mass arrests. But instead of suppressing the unrest, this time these actions only led to walkouts by other sympathetic industrial workers. (1 Jun 81, p. 5)

Bomb Explosions

(Excerpt) Three bombs exploded in Johannesburg at properties belonging to the Progressive-Federal Party. (2 Jun 81, p. 1)

Widespread Demonstrations

(Text) Demonstrations demanding the release of activists arrested for their protests against the official commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the racist republic's founding took place in cities all over the Republic of South Africa. (4 Jun 81, p. 1)

Apartheid Terror

(Excerpt) In suburbs of Johannesburg--Bosmont, Riverly, Vestgari, and New Clare--detachments of South African soldiers and police assembled and invaded the homes of the inhabitants who in turn were beaten or whipped all in the name of apartheid order. (7 Jun 81, p. 5)

South African Communist Party

(Summary) The South African Communist Party, in a document commemorating its 60th anniversary, declared that it regarded the bringing together of all workers into a united revolutionary force and the destruction of racism and capitalism as being its most important obligations. It also pledged its unity with the Soviet Communist Party and with the Communist parties of other Socialist countries. (13 Jun 81, p. 4)

Disturbance in Soweto

(Summary) South African police fired tear gas into a Soweto church at which 5,000 people were attending a service memorializing their comrades killed in 1976 by the racist authorities. (18 Jun 81, p. 5)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Soviet Delegation Departs

(Summary) A Soviet Communist delegation headed by S. Mamarasulov has left for the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. (4 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #111, 10 Jun 81, p. J1)

Visit by Soviet Delegation

(Summary) A Soviet Communist Party delegation headed by S. Mamarasulov, Member of the Central Auditing Commission, is visiting Sao Tome at the invitation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe for the purpose of exchanging experience in political education and ideological work. (8 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #113, 12 Jun 81, p. J1)

Soviet Delegation Departs

(Summary) The Soviet delegation headed by S. Mamarasulov, Member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Auditing Committee, departed from Sao Tome and Principe for home. (13 Jun 81, p. 4)

Soviet Delegation Arrives in Moscow

(Excerpt) On 13 June the Soviet delegation headed by S. Mamarasulov arrived in Moscow. (14 Jun 81, p. 4)

SENEGAL

Soviet Craft Exhibition

(Excerpt) Young artisans from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan held a large exhibition in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. (22 May 81, p. 4)

Credentials Presented

(Excerpt) On 25 May the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal, Pascal Antuan Sanay, presented his credentials to V. V. Kuznetsov, Candidate Member of the Soviet Politburo, at the Kremlin. (26 May 81, p. 4)

Life in Dakar

[F. Tarasov, Special Correspondent for Pravda, reports superficially on life in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. (15 Jun 81, p. 6)]

SEYCHELLES

Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) L. Brezhnev sent a telegram to F. Rene, President of the Republic of Seychelles, in commemoration of that nation's holiday. In a reply telegram the Seychellois leader expressed gratitude for the Soviet congratulations and good wishes. (13 Jun 81, p. 2, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #118, 19 Jun 81, p. J1)

SIERRA LEONE

Donation of Marxist Classics

(Excerpt) The Soviet Union donated 350 Marxist-Leninist classics to the teachers college named after M. Margan in Freetown, Sierra Leone. (16 Jun 81, p. 1)

SOMALIA

Attacks Against Kenya

[See entry for 20 May under Kenya.]

Siad Barre in Washington

[See entry for 31 May under United States Interests in Africa.]

SUDAN

Visit by Egypt's Sadat

(Summary) President Anwar Sadat of Egypt set out on a visit to the Sudan where he plans to hold discussions with President Nimeiri aimed at improving coordination in the area of national security. (26 May 81, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #106, 3 Jun 81, p. H5)

Strike by Railway Workers

(Excerpt) Protesting the unlawful rise in prices for consumer goods, 43,000 Sudanese railway workers staged a 5-day strike. (1 Jun 81, p. 1)

TANZANIA

Delegation of Journalists in Moscow

(Summary) In accordance with the plan for increased party ties between the Soviet Communist Party and the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM), a group of CCM press and radio workers visited the Soviet Union from 26 May through 3 June. (4 Jun 81, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #110, 9 Jun 81, p. J2)

ZIMBABWE

South African Saboteurs

(Excerpt) A group of saboteurs trained in the Republic of South Africa crossed the border into Zimbabwe in the region of the Limpopo River. The saboteurs had been recruited by the South Africans from among those people who had fled Zimbabwe when independence had been achieved in 1980. (16 Jun 81, p. 5)